



*2009 Annual Convening
of Service-Learning Leaders*
Maryland State Department of Education
Service-Learning Unit

Free Rice

Primary Subject: English

Grade Level: 9-12

Additional Subject Area Connections:

Art, Chemistry, Math, Geography, Foreign Language

Unit Title: Free Rice

Type(s) of Service: Indirect

Unit Description:

Students are challenged to help the UN's World Hunger Programme by earning grains of rice on FreeRice.com, a website that donates rice for correctly answered questions related to subjects such as grammar, language, and geography.

Potential Service-Learning Action Experiences:

- Earning grains of rice to feed the hungry around the world
- Food drive to help more locally

Local School System: Harford

LSS Coordinator: Nancy Reynolds

LSS Contact Information:

Maryland State Curriculum Indicators Met

Content Title: English/Language Arts 9-12
3.1.2; 3.2.1; 3.2.3; 3.2.5; 4.1.1; 4.1.2

Alignment with Maryland's Best Practices of Service-Learning: *Free Rice*

1. **Meet a recognized community need**

The UN World Food Programme provides food to hungry people all over the world.

The WFP's five objectives:

- Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies
- Prepare for emergencies
- Restore and rebuild lives after emergencies
- Reduce chronic hunger and malnutrition everywhere
- Strengthen the capacity of countries to reduce hunger

2. **Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning**

FreeRice.com asks trivia questions related to many school-related subjects, including grammar and vocabulary. Students earned grains of rice while applying basic language arts, math, foreign language, geography, art, and chemistry knowledge and skills.

3. **Reflect throughout the service-learning experience**

Students reflected throughout the project and recorded their responses using the wiki (www.ehsfreerice.pbwiki.com). Each student had his or her own wiki-page under his or her specific class and was provided specific reflection questions to answer.

4. **Develop student responsibility (Students have opportunities to make decisions about the service-learning project.)**

Students were responsible for earning a certain amount of grains of rice each month as well as completing the reflection questions on the wiki space.



5. **Establish community partnerships**

The project is featured on the UN's World Hunger Programme website (<http://www.wfp.org/students-and-teachers/blog/schools-action-edgewood-high-school>).

6. **Plan ahead for service-learning**

Each class determined how much rice they would earn each month. Teachers also set deadlines for completion of the project.

7. **Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service**

To kick off the project, students read and researched hunger and its causes. They also learned how to use a wiki space, which would be used for reflection on the project.